

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE  
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary doctor of science degree to M. Patricia Quinlisk at Fall 2009 Commencement.

**Executive Summary:** Iowa State University wishes to recognize Dr. Quinlisk for her exceptional leadership in public health and her service to the people of Iowa, the nation, and the world.

**Background:**

- ◇ Dr. Quinlisk earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point; Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University; and M.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She also holds Medical Technologist certification from the American Society of Clinical Pathology.
- ◇ Dr. Quinlisk has served hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and agencies around the world for more than 30 years as a health care practitioner and public health professional.
- ◇ Dr. Quinlisk began her career as head of microbiology at Adams County Memorial Hospital in Friendship, Wisconsin. She then served three years as a Peace Corps health lab services volunteer in Nepal.
- ◇ While in medical school, she served as an epidemiologist with the Wisconsin Division of Health. She also served medical clerkships with the Indian Health Services Hospital in Bethel, Alaska and the Public Health Service Hospital in Ponape, Micronesia.
- ◇ In 1990, she served on an epidemiological investigation for the Centers for Disease Control in Kathmandu, Nepal; and in 1991, she joined the Oklahoma State Department of Health as director of the communicable disease division, medical chief of acute disease service, and state epidemiologist.
- ◇ Since 1994, Dr. Quinlisk has been State Epidemiologist and Medical Director for the Iowa Department of Public Health. Dr. Quinlisk also presents lectures and participates in other activities at Iowa State University, University of Iowa, and University of Wisconsin.
- ◇ Dr. Quinlisk is a leading state and national figure in public health, epidemiology, infectious diseases, and bioterrorism. She is the author of 38 peer-reviewed journal articles, four book chapters, and 15 committee reports. She has made approximately 40 presentations. In 2001, she presented testimony on bioterrorism at U.S. Senate and House of Representatives hearings.

- ◇ Her professional service includes serving as co-chair of the Task Force on National Response to Acute Outbreaks of Food-Borne Diseases; past president and current vice-president of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists; associate editor of the *Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal*; member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Centers for Disease Control National Center for Infectious Diseases; and several committee positions for the National Institutes of Medicine. From 1991 to 2002, she was co-director of training for a communicable disease control training program in England and Ireland.
- ◇ Dr. Quinlisk received the “Woman of the Year” recognition from the Des Moines Metro Women’s Network in 2005; the John Snow “Pump Handle” Award for outstanding achievement in applied epidemiology from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists in 2004; and a unit commendation from the Public Health Service in 1992.
- ◇ Her nomination stated: “Dr. Quinlisk has a well-known record of excellence as a leading figure in public health and epidemiology in the state of Iowa and the nation. She educates, informs, and calms the public during disease outbreaks and she has used her knowledge to serve and lead several important national committees, in particular those related to bioterrorism. Dr. Quinlisk is able to communicate clearly and articulately with physicians, scientists, politicians, students, and the general public to deliver a clear, meaningful, and important message.”